

In the solidification plant, the sludge is washed and centrifuged free of residual salt. The salt solution is likewise filtered free of residual sludge and then passed through ion exchange columns to remove cesium and strontium, re-evaporated, and handled as described in Section IV.C. The sludge and ion exchange product are combined with SiO_2 , B_2O_3 , and other glass-making materials to form a matrix containing about 35% waste (25% on a waste oxide basis). The glass product is sealed in steel containers and shipped for offsite geologic disposal. For current reference purposes, the geologic disposal formation is assumed to be salt beds, but other geologic formations are also being considered.

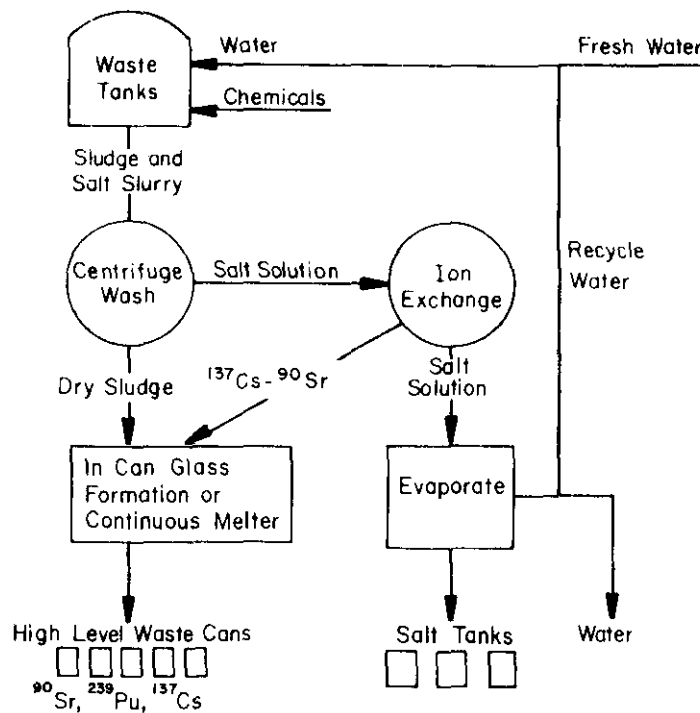


FIGURE IV-4. Conceptual Waste Solidification Process